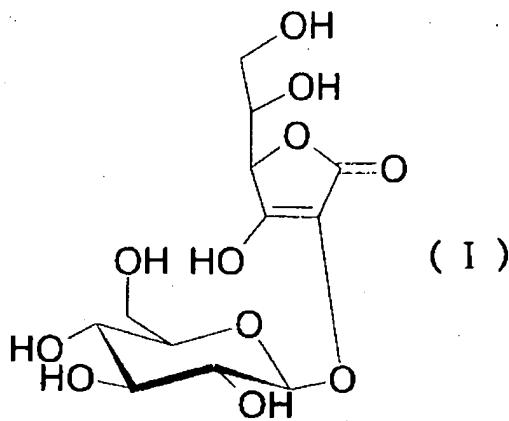


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior claim listings.

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1. (Original): A composition for external use, comprising 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl)ascorbic acid represented by the formula (I):



or a salt or ester thereof which is safe to the human body, and a koji mold or a processed koji.

Claim 2. (Original): The composition according to claim 1, which is a cosmetic or a quasi-drug.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl)ascorbic acid represented by the formula (I) as defined in claim 1 is 2-O-(β -D- glucopyranosyl)ascorbic acid extracted from a plant.

Claim 4. (Original): The composition according to claim 3, wherein the plant is a plant of Solanaceae.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 3, wherein the plant is Chinese wolfberry, or its raw fruit or dry fruit.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the koji mold or processed koji is a mold belonging to the genus Aspergillus.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the koji mold or processed koji is a mold belonging to Aspergillus oryzae, Aspergillus kawachii or Aspergillus awamori.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended): A ~~set of a composition kit~~ comprising (a) a composition 2-O-(β -D- glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid represented by the formula (I) as defined in claim 1, or a salt or ester thereof which is safe to the human body, and (b) a composition comprising a koji mold or a processed koji.

Claim 9. (Canceled).

Claim 10. (Withdrawn): A method for potentiating skin permeability of 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl)ascorbic acid, or a salt or ester thereof which is safe to the human body, by applying the composition according to claim 1 to a skin.